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**ASSISTANCE TECHNIQUE NATIONALE (ATN)**

**First Semester Report**  
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# Acronyms

ACT	Artemisinin-based Combination Therapy
AFP	Acute Flaccid Paralysis
ANC	Antenatal Care
ATN	National Technical Assistance Project
CERDI	Center for International Development Studies
CNI	National Center for Immunization (Immunization section)
CNIECS	Center for the Information, Education, and Communication for Health
CCIA	Inter Agency Coordination Committee
CDD	Control of the Diarrheal Disease
CLIC	Community Learning and Information Center
cMYP	Comprehensive Multi-year Plan for Immunization
CPN	Prenatal Consultation
CPS	Planning Division of the Ministry of Health
CREDOS	Center for Research and Documentation for Child Health
CRDI	Study Center for International Development
CROCEP	Regional planning process in support of PRODESS
CSCOM	Community Health Center
DNS	National Direction of the Health
DN	Division of Nutrition
DPT	Diphtheria Pertussis Tetanus Vaccine
DSR	Division of Reproductive Health
DSSAN	Nutrition Monitoring Unit of the CPS
DPM	Direction of Pharmacy and Medicines
EDS	Demographic and Health Survey
ENA	Essential Nutrition Actions
FNUAP	UN Fund for Population
GOM	Government of Mali
HKI	Helen Keller International
HPP	Post-Partum Hemorrhage
IPC / FP	Interpersonal Counseling / Family Planning Technology
INRSP	National Institute of Public Health Research
IPT	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of malaria
KC	Keneya Ciwara
MAC	Malaria Action Coalition
MHO	Mutuelle Health Organization
MI	Micronutrient Initiative
MOH	Ministry of Health
MSA	Ministry of Social Affairs
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
NIDs	National Immunization Days
ORT	Oral Rehydration Therapy
PRODESS	Program for the Development of Health and Social Services
PNLP	National Malaria Control Program
POPPHI	Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative
PPH	Postpartum hemorrhaging
PPM	Malian People's Pharmacy
PSNAN	National Strategic Plan for Nutrition
PEV	Expanded Program for Immunizations
PCIME	Integrated Management of Child Illness
PF	Family Planning
PNP	Policy Normes and Procedures

RED	Reach Every District (ACD)
SIS	Health Information System
SIAN	National Nutrition Weeks
SP	Sulfadoxine-Pyrimethamine
SRO	Oral Rehydration Salts
TPI	Intermittent Preventive Treatment of Malaria
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
URTEL	Malian Radio and Television Union
VAS	Vitamin A supplementation
VAT	Anti-tetanus Vaccine
WHO	World Health Organization

## 1 Introduction

The present report summarizes the key technical activities of the first semester of fiscal year 2006 (October- March 2006) for the USAID Health Program / National Technical Assistance (ATN) project. This fiscal year is the third year of operations for ATN.

ATN's activities over the past six months continue to be the result of a high level of collaboration with the Ministry of the Health (MOH) and the high impact service divisions. Through a process of ongoing consultation with USAID Mali's Health team and a productive collaboration with the Ministry of the Health and other partners, ATN is able to work towards achieving USAID's strategic objective (SO 6) in health: Increased Use of High Impact Services, within the framework of PRODESS II.

This first semester report presents the two major project components: high impact services and cross-cutting interventions. The report summarizes activities carried out during this period, lessons learned and obstacles encountered, and outlines planned activities for the next semester of FY 06 which is the final semester of the three year base period. ATN worked with the staff from the different high impact service divisions of the MOH on the preparation of workplans and provided input into the programming of USAID's direct funding to MOH.

## 2 Summary of First Semester 2006 Activities and Achievements

### Nutrition:

- **Integration of Vitamin A with NIDs:** Played an important role in catalyzing the decision to integrate vitamin A supplementation with NIDs to address the infrequent distribution of vitamin A in 2005.
- **National Nutrition Week (SIAN):** Provided technical assistance in the advocacy, planning, coordination and organization of the SIAN for May and November 2006.
- **National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN):** Provided technical assistance to the DSSAN in the preparation of the presentation of the National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN) to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Health.

### Vaccination

- **National Immunization Days (NIDs):** Provided technical assistance in planning, training, and communication for National Immunization Days for polio in November and December 2005 and carried out supervision in the regions of Timbuktu and Segou.
- **Reach Every District (RED):** Implemented in collaboration with national, regional, and local health officials the "Reach Every District" approach for the improvement of routine EPI coverage in Niafunke and Goundam, two cercles in the region of Timbuktu with weak immunization coverage. In this phase, training for improved monitoring of immunization activities was carried out.

## **Family Planning and Maternal Health**

- **Provider Training and Supervision:** Prepared and implemented a training session in Family Planning Technology and Interpersonal Counseling (FP/IPC) for 22 participants. Supervised with the DSR, FP service providers who have participated in previous FP/IPC trainings in the Gao region and funded supervision in four other regions.
- **Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Reproductive Health:** Organized with the DNS the official presentation of PNP documents and facilitated with the DSR the PNP training of trainers workshop for 31 participants from all nine regions.
- **Repositioning Family Planning:** Finalized the Mali action plan for repositioning family planning during a November workshop with 35 participants from all partner organizations. Actively participated in the planning and implementation of the family planning campaign.
- **Gender:** Participated in the USAID partners' gender workshop and organized and facilitated the Gender Integration workshop with the DNS with 30 participants from Mali's 9 regions.

## **Malaria**

- **Intermittent Preventive Treatment:** Implemented the new MOH Policy on IPT through the support of Focused Antenatal Care Training for 60 service providers from the region of Mopti and the district of Bamako and the broadcasting of radio spots in 9 languages.

## **Control of Diarrheal Diseases**

- **Hand washing Study:** Provided technical input to the Hygiene Division of the DNS in the design of a hand washing behavior study of mothers of children under-five.

## **Health Reform**

- **Finalization of Donor Mapping:** Sponsored a workshop for the finalization of the donor mapping report and established ACCESS data base for updating donor information.
- **Support to National Health Accounts:** Completed data collection and finalized the analysis tables with the PHRplus and AWARE team.

## **Mutual Health Organizations**

- **Dissemination of Best Practices:** Assisted the CPS in the presentation of bivariate results of the MHO evaluation at the CERDI for a conference on "Health financing in the developing countries." Participated in the regional meeting in Senegal to capitalize on the lessons learned on MHO development in West Africa.

## **Cross-Cutting Behavior Change Communication**

**High Impact Health Services Communication:** Supported the development of the Message Guide, the CD-Rom for CLICS, and the fourteen episode radio series on high impact health services in Mali.

### 3 COMPONENT I: High Impact Services

#### 3.1 Nutrition

##### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

The present report reflects the different activities of the Nutrition component of ATN. These activities were carried out in collaboration with the Division of Nutrition (DN) National Direction of Health (DNS) and the Division of Food and Nutrition monitoring (DSSAN) of the Planning Division of the Ministry of Health (CPS/Sante) as well as with other nutrition partners.

ATN's nutrition activities are designed to reach the overall objective of USAID/Mali and the Ministry of Health of universal coverage of children 6-59 months with vitamin A supplementation. Synergy activities, advocacy, and promotion of national nutrition policies were also carried out this past semester.

##### **Integration of Vitamin A with NIDs**

It is worthwhile to note the important role that ATN played in catalyzing the decision to integrate vitamin A supplementation with NIDs. It was evident in the previous semester that a distribution round would be extremely urgent because, in spite of ATN's strong advocacy of SIAN in 2005, distribution had not occurred since February 2005.

- ATN participated in meetings for coordination, planning and follow up for the inclusion of vitamin A during the 2<sup>nd</sup> round of NIDs in December 2005.

Undertook a retrospective analysis of the last three SIAN and NIDs – vitamin A supplementation during 2004 – 2005 to study and reconcile differences among numbers used for the target groups: children 6 to 59 months and post-partum women

Participated in a newly created technical group composed of MOH (DNS and INRSP) and ATN staff to evaluate the additional cost of adding a third person to the vaccination teams to distribute Vitamin A capsules. The cost was estimated at 212,972,000 CFA for the whole country; out of this discussion it was decided to maintain the current NIDs two-person vaccination team.

Since there was not a sufficient supply of Vitamin A capsules in the country the decision was made to integrate Vitamin A distribution during the NIDs in December 2005 for the three Northern regions (Timbuktu, Gao and Kidal) and Bamako District only. The results of these distributions will be finalized by the DN and validated in a national meeting during the next semester.

*Provided financial assistance for the training of over 900 vaccinators to distribute vitamin A in Bamako District and Gao region (one member per team of vaccinators).*

Created message content for social mobilization activities relative to the integration of Vitamin A with NIDs.

Advocated for the inclusion of nutrition/vitamin A in the technical and financial partners' official statement presented to the annual Technical Committee review meeting of the PRODESS.

### **National Nutrition Week (SIAN)**

- Organized and participated in a meeting with the DN and with Rotary International to advocate for their support for the Vitamin A distribution for December 2005. Insufficient time remained for Rotary to provide assistance by December but discussions continue with Rotary Mali by the Nutrition Division chief for eventual support in 2006.
- Participated and provided technical assistance in the advocacy, planning, coordination and organization of the SIAN for May and November 2006.

### **National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN)**

- Provided technical assistance to the DSSAN in the preparation of a presentation of the National Strategic Plan for Nutrition (PSNAN) to the Cabinet of the Ministry of Health. The PSNAN has been adopted, with a few reservations on some of the statistics. The permanent secretary of the PSNAN will be assumed by the CPS.
- Participated in and provided technical assistance in the development of terms of reference for the development of the Health sector component of the PSNAN.

### **PROFILES nutrition in collaboration with POLICY**

- Contributed to the revision and improvement of the PROFILES Nutrition brochure
- Received 180 copies of the PROFILES brochure and organized its transmission to be sent to the Regions and Nutrition partners (160 copies for the regions, Bamako District and the other nutrition partners and 20 for ATN)

### **Control of Diarrheal Disease (CDD)**

Collaborated with PSI in ORT promotion message development and assisted in the review of recorded materials in national languages.

### **Activities in synergy with World Education**

Developed and provided input on drawings for the vitamin A information boards



## **Other activities**

### ***Nutrition workplan***

- Developed a draft concept paper of nutrition activities for the Northern regions submitted to USAID
- Updated the new division chief of the DN about ATN's Nutrition workplan and discussed DN workplan

### ***Coordination and technical assistance***

- Participated in Nutrition Partners Group meetings to review activities among the different partners
- Participated in the panel meetings for the organization of the nutrition radio campaign for Mali's northern regions and the Western Sahel (in collaboration with HKI, WFP, Africare and URTEL).
- Continued to share information and coordinate on VAS activities with the MI/Sahel project to ensure complementarity and synergy.
- Technical assistance to the Cooking Oil Fortification Project "HUICOMA" (with Vitamin A) -- "Doumouni Nafama". Presentation of results from a study on client demand.
- Participated in the workshop to harmonize tools for Vitamin A promotion organized by HKI.
- Participated and provided technical assistance to the workshop on Tools and Approaches based on the Regional Initiative for Dissemination of the Essential Nutrition Activities (ENA).
- Participated in the Gender Workshops for USAID and DSR partners which produced workplans for integrating gender into high impact services activities.
- Provided technical assistance during the validation workshop for the formulation of a case management policy addressing nutrition for people living with HIV/AIDS.
- Technical assistance to CREDOS in the development of the proposal for a study of the effectiveness of twice annual vitamin A distribution through National Nutrition Weeks.
- Provided technical comments regarding nutrition for the Mali's DHS IV survey.

## **Lessons Learned**

Integrating vitamin A into NIDs creates certain challenges in achieving vitamin A coverage objectives, as the target groups for the NIDs are those for polio vaccination (0 – 59 months) and can differ from the estimates made of the target population for vitamin A (6-59 months). The effect of this is that low coverage rates for vitamin A can occur due to stockouts, since NIDs target group estimates are higher and can include children older than 59 months, as occurred in the February and December 2005 NIDs. Better planning has addressed this problem in some cases, but the NIDs activity has persisted in using a different target group estimate than the official MOH estimate. Perhaps the new stronger leadership in the DN can help overcome this challenge for future integrated NIDs/Vitamin A supplementation (if any).

In preparation for the December NIDs with vitamin A, ATN and partners played a key role in analyzing and repositioning the vitamin A inventory and in also suggesting that other countries be contacted to “borrow” vitamin A (as is done with vaccines). To this end, UNICEF contacted Niger and was able to borrow vitamin A.

The new and stronger leadership of the DN can help overcome this challenge as the new division chief is committed to vitamin A supplementation, and to having a national budget line for the SIANs. She values the synergy between nutrition partners and the inclusion of non-nutrition partners in technical dialogue which will only strengthen the implementation of the nutrition portfolio of activities. However, the problem of taking nutrition into account at the national level remains a challenge as was seen by the insufficient attention to nutrition issues during the CROCEP. Nevertheless, the CROCEP provided an opportunity to raise the profile for nutrition at the operational level and to ensure, in the case of the Bamako district CROCEP, that workplans include the SIAN and funding.

### **Key activities planned for the next six months**

- Organization of the SIAN for May 2006.
- Integration of deworming of preschool-aged children in the May SIAN in Koulikoro in partnership with SAN+ and the MI/SAHEL project implemented by the MOH, HKI, and UNICEF.
- Harmonization of the Nutrition PNP with the PNP for reproductive health.
- Development of National Directives for Vitamin A supplementation.
- Distribution of PROFILES Nutrition brochures to the regions, Bamako District, and nutrition partners.
- Development of the Health Sector plan for the PSNAN.
- Organization of activities for World Breastfeeding Week.
- In collaboration with World Education: production of information board on Vitamin A for World Education pilot sites.
- Assisting CREDOS in the implementation of the study “Evaluating the Effectiveness of the Vitamin A supplementation”.

## **3.2 Vaccination**

### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

ATN's vaccination activities during the first semester involved the provision of technical assistance to the Immunization Section of the National Direction of Health for supplementary vaccination activities or national immunization days (NIDs) for polio, held in November and December 2005, and the implementation of the “Reach Every District” or RED approach for the improvement of routine immunization rates in Niafunké and Goundam, two cercles in the region of Timbuktu

#### **Supplemental Vaccinations: NIDs**

- Actively participated in preparatory meetings (the national level steering committee, the technical and social mobilization subcommittee meetings) for the last edition of NIDs for 2005
- Participated in the organization of and supervision of NIDs activities in Timbuktu and Segou
- Supervised NIDs in December and carried out pre-testing in the Segou region of job aids for vaccinators which were developed by ATN and the Social mobilization sub-committee for improving interpersonal communication during the NIDs.
- Provided extensive comments and edits to the official MOH report on the NIDs for 2004 – 2005.

### **Reach Every District**

With the goal of strengthening routine EPI coverage, ATN continues to provide support to two districts with weak vaccination coverage, Goundam and Niafunké in the Timbuktu region through the implementation of the Reach Every District (RED) approach for reinforcing routine EPI in collaboration with the MOH and WHO Mali.

- Organized joint supervision in the RED cercles of Niafunke and Goundam with health personnel from both cercles and the region.
- Introduced Inter-personal Communication in the training module used for the volunteer vaccinators.
- Distributed and developed contacts for the dissemination of a radio series (PIC/PEV) on vaccination which was disseminated in four national languages on vaccination in Niafunke and Goundam (two stations per cercle).
- Participated in joint supervisions held each trimester for RED activities with the Immunization Section of the National Direction of Health which resulted in the intensification of vaccination activities in two cercles but noted that there was insufficient follow up at the CSCOM level and insufficient community participation. The supervision team made recommendations to the community and to the head of the local CSCOM and the local health team leader to improve these areas. The supervision of these activities by the national level will continue in the long term but with less frequency.

### **Partnership activities**

- ATN participated in the trimester meetings of the lead officers for AFP surveillance and for EPI from each region in Kayes in December and Sikasso in late February. These periodic meetings are organized by WHO and are the only formal meetings which focus on epidemiological information sharing in the regions. They also examine routine immunization results from the previous trimester. ATN presented the progress of the implementation of RED.
- Participated with CNIECS in the development of a social mobilization plan for the NIDs. Previous plans had been developed on an ad hoc basis. This plan represented a more concerted effort among partners to prepare a plan based

on lessons learned to date and will be useful should Mali need to undertake a NIDs in 2006.

- Supported the revision of training modules for EPI trainers with the Immunization Section and the CVD (Center for Vaccine Development) and WHO.
- Participated in the training of trainer sessions for 16 EPI trainers from the Mopti, Timbuktu, Kidal and Gao regions in February for the progressive introduction of the anti-Hib vaccine into routine EPI in Mali. All regions are now trained and prepared for the gradual introduction of this new vaccine in the regional capitals. The CVD has expressed its appreciation of the ATN vaccination officer's participation as a trainer in these training sessions.

### **Technical Support to the Immunization Section**

- Participated in the technical sub-committee of the CCIA
- Joint mission to examine implementation and lessons learned in the RED approach in order for the Immunization Section to begin introducing RED in other cercles this year
- Participated in the revision of the terms of reference for the EPI external review
- Participated in the preparatory meetings of the sub-committees for the EPI external review: ATN provided support to the Vaccination Coverage, Financial and Technical and Social Mobilization sub-committees in the preparation of their terms of reference, the development of training guides, the preparation of questionnaires, and in the preparation of staffing and implementation of the review. ATN will provide financial support as well, primarily to logistics for the review.
- Participated in the organization of meetings for the preparation of the Comprehensive Multi-year plan for EPI

### **Communication Activities**

- Designed and disseminated a four month radio program on routine EPI in Peul, Songhoï and Tamasheq on the importance of vaccination in Goundam and Niafunké. The series will play on four local radio stations. Round table discussions and contests are also organized by the radios following broadcast of the program.
- Prepared job aid for volunteer vaccinators to improve their interpersonal communication skills. Developed a laminated cue card as a job aid for vaccinators, which was pre-tested during the second round of polio NIDs in December 2005 in the region of Koulikoro.
- Participated in the development of terms of reference for community mobilization agents working on NIDs
- Participated in the development of the terms of reference for an official visit to Kadiolo by the High Counsel of Islamic Leaders and other partners to discuss events which occurred during the 2005 NIDs in which the refusal by one community to vaccinate their children resulted in a fatal altercation between the police and the community.

- Participated in the workshop for the finalization and harmonization of communication tools and social mobilization for routine EPI. These tools included ATN-developed IPC curriculum and job aid for vaccinators.

## **Lessons Learned**

Mali has not had a confirmed case of Polio since May 2005. Due to this, NIDs were not scheduled for the first part of 2006; however, they will most likely occur in late 2006. It will be extremely important to continue efforts to reinforce routine immunization, further strengthen AFP surveillance, and closely monitor the situation in neighboring countries, particularly new cases, to maintain this situation. A consequence of this has been that Mali has been able to focus on the preparation of the EPI external review which has dominated the first part of 2006.

Partners, in particular national level staff, are delayed in carrying out the replication of RED in other parts of the country. These partners are also not often available for routine EPI activities, in particular supervision. ATN will continue to work with the immunization section to improve financial and human resource programming to overcome this limited capacity. The EPI review will also have an institutional component that will most likely underscore these issues as well as provide recommendations.

ATN will continue to work with the immunization section to improve resource programming to better manage the limited capacity. The EPI review will also have an institutional component that will most likely underscore these issues as well and provide recommendations.

## **Key activities planned for the next six months**

- Continue joint supervision in RED districts;
- Participate in the reporting out and dissemination of the EPI review results
- Development of the Comprehensive Multi-year plan (cMYP) for Immunization
- Organize monitoring sessions in RED cercles and carry out follow-up
- Begin to examine GAVI II funding possibilities with EPI partners
- Participate in trimester supervision with the national level and other partners to encourage further replication of RED
- Organize a workshop for an IPC module for traditional communicators to support EPI;
- Participate in trimester meetings of EPI and AFP surveillance officers;
- Prepare an analysis and documentation of the RED approach in Niafunke and Goundam

### 3.3 Maternal Health and Family Planning

#### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

This semester was a full one with a series of activities supporting Family Planning Repositioning, the Family Planning promotion campaign, and the official presentation of the revised PNP document. The ATN team grew this semester with the arrival of Michigan Fellow Laura Hurley who will support Family Planning and Reproductive Health activities.

In accordance with the ATN Workplan and in collaboration with the Reproductive Health Division of the DNS, the following activities were implemented during the last six months:

#### ***Training***

- Prepared and implemented a training session for 22 participants in Family Planning Technology and Interpersonal Counselling (IPC/FP) in January to February. The participants included 20 midwives, 1 obstetrical nurse and 1 doctor from regions of Tombouctou, Gao, Mopti, Koulikoro, Ségou and the district of Bamako for the non-Keneya Ciwara districts.
- Financed supervision by DSR personnel of trained FP service providers in the regions of Tombouctou, Mopti, Koulikoro, Ségou, Sikasso and the district of Bamako for the non-Keneya Ciwara districts.
- Supervised with the DSR, FP service providers who have participated in previous FP/ICP trainings. The Districts of Ansongo, Bourem, and Menaka were visited in the Gao region in October.
- Financed the Improved Antenatal Care (CPN Recentrée) Trainings for 60 service providers from the region of Mopti (March) and the district of Bamako (January).

#### ***Policies, Norms, and Procedures for Reproductive Health***

- Organized with the DNS the official presentation on February 7th of PNP documents by the Minister of Health to service providers, international partners and the media.
- Recruited a consultant for the training of trainers for the dissemination of PNP to the regional and district levels.
- Organized and facilitated the implementation of the training of trainers PNP workshop for 31 participants with the DSR in February.

#### ***Family Planning***

##### ***Repositioning***

- Finalized Mali action plan for repositioning family planning during a November workshop based on the draft prepared by the Malian delegation at the Accra, Ghana conference.
- Participated in the preparation and attended the workshop in November on the revival of IUD use organized by ACQUIRE.

- Prepared and submitted sections for the Repositioning of Family Planning brochure being prepared by USAID Mali. Reviewed drafts and provided comments.
- Analyzed FP data gathered during FP supervision visits to 17 districts and from the HIS in order to track changes in FP service use around the 2005 Family Planning Campaign. A report of the conclusions from this analysis will soon be available

### ***Family Planning Campaign***

- Participated in the Family Planning working group meetings during which an action plan was developed for the Promotion of Family Planning campaign for March 14 – April 13. Activities were planned, implemented and monitored.
- Participated in the communication sub-committee of the FP working group on message development and communication plan for the FP campaign.
- Participated in the media breakfast for the FP campaign.
- Mobilized NGO and women's associations for the launch of the FP campaign.
- Financially supported the media coverage of the Malian National Committee of the Network of African Women for the promotion of FP.
- Broadcasted two films on family planning on the ORTM network.
- Rebroadcasted two round table discussions: one on National Television on the advantages of FP and the other on ORTM Radio on male involvement in FP that were produced for the 2005 FP campaign.
- Published campaign ads in 14 newspapers announcing the campaign, its slogan, and length.
- Financed and organized media coverage of the launch by National Television and two local radio stations: Radio Guinta and Radio Niamakoro.
- Organized and supported radio broadcasts of FP messages on methods, advantages, service use, and side effects in French and 8 national languages by five local radio stations in Bamako during the month of the campaign.
- Organized two round table discussions: one on National Television on the role of religion in FP and the other on ORTM Radio about contraceptive security.
- Participated in the organization and financing of the campaign launch in the Niamakoro neighborhood in Commune VI of Bamako District.
- Discussed Terms of Reference with CCP research advisor for a qualitative research activity that will be held after the 2006 FP campaign.

### ***Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health***

- Prepared in collaboration with the DSR and UNFPA the terms of reference for a National workshop to develop the communication strategy for reproductive health.
- Hired a local consultant to prepare a situational analysis for reproductive health communication for the workshop.
- Provided international consultant, CCP's Claudia Vondrasek, to work with the local consultant and provided technical assistance in the preparation and implementation of the workshop with UNFPA consultants and the DSR.
- Prepared agenda with UNFPA consultants for workshop to be held in April.

### ***Gender***

- Participated in the USAID partners' gender workshop at the Hotel Kempinski in November 2005.
- Organized and facilitated the Gender integration workshop with the DNS with 30 participants from all 9 regions in Mali in November 2005. Operational plans were developed by regional partners for the integration of gender in their activities. These will be followed up during supervision visits with the DSR.
- Continued efforts with the DSR to track women's and men's participation in DSR workshops.

### ***Partnership***

- Participated in a regional workshop held in Bamako on the Prevention of post-partum hemorrhage organized by POPPHI (Prevention of Postpartum Hemorrhage Initiative)
- Participated in USAID Partner workshop with the MOH at the Hotel Mande for the programming of 2005-06 activities.
- Participated in the national training of trainers workshop for Focused ANC (CPN recentrée) which includes an emphasis on IPT for malaria.
- Participated in the preparation for the First Ladies' Meeting on Vision 2010 and in the one-day First Ladies Meeting for Vision 2010 held in December during the France-Africa Summit.
- Participation in SO6 program review meetings with Ministry of Health and USAID Washington.
- Participated and represented ATN and USAID in various reproductive health workshops organized by partners on: the new MOH policy on the free provision of caesarian deliveries, post abortion care, maternal autopsy study, adolescent and reproductive health, POLICY projects regional meetings on advocacy with religious leaders.
- Participated in workshops for the field coordinators of Kénéya Ciwara and the accreditation ceremonies for Ciwara d'Or.

## **Lessons Learned**

In the family planning and reproductive health area, the benefit of coordination of activities by the DSR among multiple partners is a key lesson learned. The timing of activities, the funding, implementation, and follow up are all improved by this successful coordination.

Early and thorough activity planning in consultation with the Division of Reproductive Health (DSR) along with ATN participation in the CROCEP regional meetings has helped facilitate activity implementation this semester. Collaboration with Keneya Ciwara and the DSR has helped to improve the management and use of tools and trainings.

The Family Planning working group and in particular the coordination between USAID funded FP partners has greatly strengthened the planning and implementation of this year's FP campaign. The working group continues to be an example of how successful coordination among partners can be led by the Ministry of



Health and that working groups should be encouraged for coordination in other divisions and thematic areas.

This semester also saw more active participation by the UNFPA technical staff, assigned to the DSR, in planning with USAID and DSR. This has helped the DSR improve the financing of certain activities such as the PNP and to avoid duplication of efforts and funding.

Significant delays in the official presentation of the PNP delayed the dissemination among the regions. To address this delay, the DSR and ATN rapidly planned a training of trainers shortly after the PNP was presented.

### **Key activities planned for the next six months**

- Supervision of focused ANC and FP/IPC trainees
- Follow-up on gender planning by regions
- Participation in the evaluation of the FP campaign
- Participation in the campaign for the revival of IUD use in Mali.
- Participation in regional workshop in Uganda for PPH and presentation of trip report
- Reporting out of the results of the implementation of the prevention of PPH
- Participation in the planning and organization of PPH training
- Participation in the preparation workshop and validation of the National Communication Strategy for Reproductive Health
- Participation in the implementation of the pilot study: "The safety and feasibility of matrons using Active Management of the Third Stage of Labor" In collaboration with INTRA/Capacity and POPHI and the MOH. ATN's role will be mainly in liaison with the MOH and M& E.

## **3.4 Malaria**

### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

Malaria activities were centered on implementation of the MOH new policy on Intermittent Preventive Treatment (IPT) of pregnant women and case management for the general population.

Related to IPT, ATN has finalized the contract with URTEL for the broadcasting of radio spots and many local radios are already broadcasting the spots according to a agreed upon broadcasting plan. These radio spots have been broadcast in 9 local languages. ATN has also collaborated with AFRICARE in delivery of radio spots for local radio in its intervention area.

ATN, in collaboration with the DSR and the PNLP, has supported the MOH in its training for the focused ANC (CPN récentrée). Thus, the new IPT policy has been integrated in the overall focused ANC training, where the IPT and Insecticide treated bednets are a key focus of the training.

In collaboration with MAC/JHPIEGO, the DSR, and the PNLP, ATN will work on training follow up. A list of indicators will be developed and field visits to selected sites will be undertaken to see the impact of the training on ANC services delivery. The lack of SP and stockouts will likely be an issue. Anecdotal information indicates that SP is being used as a first line drug for malaria case management thereby making it unavailable for use in IPT.

ATN, in collaboration with MAC/RPM+, will continue to be engaged in the different levels of policy dialogue aimed at the finalization of the national malaria case management policy.

### **Key activities for the next six months**

- Continuation of radio broadcasting with local radio stations
- Follow up on the broadcasting
- Assist the PNLP and DSR to follow up on the ANC training.
- Assisting the PNLP in applying for the 6<sup>th</sup> round of Global Fund support (if the MOH decides to pursue this funding option)

## **3.5 Control of Diarrheal Diseases**

### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

One of ATN's goals is to assist the MOH to improve ORT use for diarrhea case management, based on data from recent research.

#### **1. Handwashing Study**

Last semester ATN organized a one-day consultative workshop addressing “Re-invigorating the Prevention and Case Management of Diarrheal Disease.” During this workshop, participants discussed new data and directives on prevention, such as handwashing, and case management in order to stimulate discussion and clarify national policy.

During this semester, the Hygiene Division of the National Direction of Health after this meeting did additional research and developed a terms of reference for a handwashing behavior study of mothers of children under five and school age children. ATN provided comments on early drafts and participated in the validation meeting of the terms of reference and questionnaires. The results of the study were shared in March with a partners group and a national workshop to develop a handwashing strategy is currently being planned.

#### **2. Review of PSI Spots**

ATN reviewed, at the invitation of PSI, the TV and radio spots they produced for the promotion of ORT / ORS. The spots were broadcast in October 2005 by ORTM and local radio stations. They focus on danger signs and the definition of dehydration, the importance of early care seeking at the CSCOM when there are danger signs, correct case management of diarrhea, and actions to be taken to rehydrate the child. Because of the current persistent lack of ORS, the messages also focused on increasing fluids (breastmilk and water) to the child for optimal rehydration (with or without ORS). Radio spots have been developed and ATN will review the translation.

### **Key Activities for the next six months:**

- Support the process of ensuring the availability of the new ORS low osmolarity formula and other policy changes with the Direction of Pharmacy and Medicines (DPM) and the DSR.
- Support the process of ordering the new ORS formula.

## **4 COMPONENT II: Cross-cutting Interventions**

### **4.1 Health Reform**

#### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

ATN continued its activities in the area of health reform, within the PRODESS framework. In particular, ATN participated in several national workshops, consultative meetings and other activities organized by the Ministry of Health as part of the PRODESS Technical and Monitoring Committee.

Main activities for ATN included:

#### **Finalization of Donor mapping**

A draft report was submitted to the CPS for review.

ATN sponsored a workshop (March 2-3, 2006) for the technical working group set up by the MOH to finalize the report.

The data base (called DOSECA) and guide on how to use the data in ACCESS is now available. It has been provided to the CPS. (The Ministry has asked ATN to finance putting the PRODESS data on a similar data base as the Donor Mapping data base).

#### **Support to PRODESS**

- ATN participated in the regional planning meetings, known as CROCEP, in order to promote the programming of high impact health services and to provide information relative to the financial resources and mechanisms available from USAID. This participation helped improve coordination of

funding and improve the understanding of USAID's contribution to PRODESS.

- ATN provided support for a training workshop in health planning for health personnel in the Gao region and facilitated a session on Results Based Activity Management.
- ATN provided technical support during several workshops organized by the MOH for the improvement and updating of the Health Information System tools used at the local level. In particular, ATN supported the integration of high impact health services indicators into the data reporting prepared by the different levels of the health system. The integration of these indicators has been a key concern of USAID and partners in order that the HIS capture adequately the impact of improvements in high impact health services, for example in areas such as vitamin A and ITN distribution.

### **Support to National Health Accounts:**

- Data collection was completed by March 2006.
- With the support of the ATN team, a PHRplus and AWARE team came to Mali (February 20 - March 3, 2006) to assist the Mali NHA team (INRSP) to finalize the analysis tables. This visit was coordinated with a WHO consultant, working on the NHA as well.
- The objective of the team's visit was to work with the Mali NHA team in order to transfer skills for the coding of transactions in the NHA table, the development of intermediate tables, collection of secondary data sources and data weighing and extrapolation techniques. The ATN/PHRplus/AWARE team, with the INRSP also debriefed the CPS director.

The team realized that more data cleaning was needed and there is still some missing data. However, the visit produced positive results in clarifying and setting priorities with the INRSP team, and next steps are clear to all. The next steps involve preparing a description of transactions and information sources for each year and for the sub analysis for malaria and an overall review of the data base and questionnaires for quality control. Another technical visit by some of the team members is being planned.

### **Lessons Learned**

There have been delays between programming, resource mobilization and planning of activities for the following year. In addition, basket funding as a funding mechanism requires additional refinement; the government is not quite ready even though certain partners had already made progress in their preparations.

The NHA technical assistance visit provided an opportunity to identify specific weaknesses in the NHA process and to provide clear orientation to the national NHA team.

The members of the TA team were successful in building capacity of the national NHA team during their visit, and the data collection and data entry are being addressed.

### **Key Activities for the next 6 months**

ATN will focus on the following activities:

- Coordinating the upcoming AWARE NHA TAs with the INRSP in order to maximize the effort for the data analysis.
- Assisting in the data analysis and assisting in preparing the first draft of the NHA report.
- Assisting in the NHA dissemination workshop.
- Assisting in HIV/AIDS donor mapping.

## **4.2 Mutual Health Organizations**

### **Accomplishments of the last six months**

ATN organized the following activities, in collaboration with the CPS of the Ministry of Health.

- ATN assisted the CPS to present bivariate results of the MHO evaluation at the CERDI in Clermont Ferrand, France during a conference on “ Health financing in developing countries”
- ATN participated to regional meeting in Senegal in December 2005 to capitalize on the lessons learned on MHO development in West Africa. ATN presented results from the MHO evaluation in Mali. An outcome of this workshop will be a document that will assist in the dissemination of best practices in MHO implementation.

### **Lessons Learned**

Experiences from other countries show that the development of a strategic plan for support to MHO development is an effective strategy to pull together stakeholders and support needed to effectively expand MHO penetration. The Ministry of Social Affairs which is now leading the development of next steps for the MHO, will prepare a national MHO strategy with the assistance of an experienced consultant familiar with all MHO models, who will be identified and hired in the next semester.

The major obstacles were identified in the MHO report. A solution to these will be the development of a strategic plan with a strong capacity building component and an IEC / advocacy component for the promotion of MHO's. ATN will work with the consultant hired by the MSA in order to ensure that these areas are adequately addressed.

## **Key Activities for the next 6 months:**

- Support the development of a Strategic Plan for MHO Development in Mali.

### **4.3 Behavior Change Communication (cross-cutting)**

#### **Accomplishments of the past six months**

- Message guide on high impact health services: Consultant identified and supported for update.
- Cd-Rom for CLICS: Identification and initial selection of BCC materials and tools on high impact health services to be included in a Cd-rom for the CLICS
- Radio series on high impact health services- The Awakening of Hérémakono: support to the production and review of the fourteen episode series which was validated in February by a multi-division working group comprised of the National Direction of Health, CNIECS, Keneya Ciwara, and the National Direction of Social Affairs

#### **Key activities for the next six months**

- Radio series on high impact health services: Broadcast the weekly program in collaboration with the DNS;
- Organize monitoring of the broadcasting; Make copies of the series for distribution (200 sets of 7 cassettes)
- Finalize the message guide on high impact health services
- Support the training of the IEC Coordinator at the DNS in website management

## **5 Additional activities**

- ATN participated in the preparation and validation in January and March of the National strategy for the Extension of IMCI which includes community IMCI with an emphasis on the 13 Essential Family Practices.
- ATN participated in discussions with WHO, USAID and CREDOS on current ARI case management policies for the community level. Adapting other country experiences, such as those of Senegal, was discussed and a strategy to best disseminate these results in order to advocate for community management of ARI was developed. Terms of reference will be prepared which will examine antibiotic use at the community level in light of eventually developing a protocol for testing community case management of ARI by relais.
- Participated in Program review meetings with USAID/Washington
- Participated in visit by Kamden Hoffmann and discussions regarding the Partnership for Maternal, Child and Neonatal health
- Attended Avian Flu meetings at the national level and with Groupe Pivot
- Presentation on maternal and women's health to Undersecretary of State Dobrinsky

6 Key Indicators  
**Health Program / National Technical Assistance Project**  
**Expected Results for 2006**

Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (First semester '06)	Comments
<b>Impact Results</b>					
% of children 6 – 59 months of age who have received one dose of vitamin A in the past six months.	MOH or DHS III (national )	78%	80%	N/A	Source : MOH. The NIDs with vitamin A results from December 2005 are not yet validated.
<b>Process Results for Nutrition</b>					
1. National Guidelines on vitamin A supplementation disseminated	Nutrition Division/ DNS / ATN	0	1 national guidelines document is disseminated in 8 regions and Bamako District	Draft prepared	National guidelines for vitamin A supplementation replaced original result of “National strategy for micronutrients”.
2. Write and reproduce job aids / cue cards for service providers on breastfeeding, complementary feeding and Vitamin A supplementation.	Nutrition Division/ DNS / ATN	0	Job aids	Job aids included in PNP	Job aids to be selected and reproduced in second semester
3. Validate information boards for Vitamin A for use by partners	ATN / World Education/ Keneya Ciwara	0	Information boards available for larger dissemination by partners	Artist hired, drafts prepared and reviewed	Information boards being finalized and pretest and production being prepared
<b>Vaccination Results</b>					
1. Support to the EPI Review	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	1 document (EPI review)		Work on survey instruments and training completed
2. Participation in the development of the comprehensive multi-year plan for Vaccination	Immunization Section / DNS / ATN	0	1 plan is available		To be done in the second semester – linked to the EPI review
3. Organize two monitoring sessions in two cercles for RED	ATN, DNS,	0	2 cercles ; 2 trip reports	2 cercles completed – Trip reports submitted	Additional support to be provided to two MOH sponsored RED cercles in

Results	Data source DRS, Cercles (Trip Reports)	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (First semester '06)	Comments
<p>4. Organize a workshop to develop an IPC training program for traditional communicators and vaccinators</p> <p>5. Design, develop, and produce cue cards (job aids) for NIDs vaccinators</p>	<p>DNS/CNI ECS/ATN</p> <p>DNS/CNI ECS/ATN</p>	<p>0</p> <p>0</p>	<p>2 workshops and 2 training modules on IPC validated</p> <p>1 tool available for vaccinators</p>	<p>2 validation workshops</p> <p>1 tool validated</p>	<p>2006. A radio program in RED cercles has been introduced in two rural radios to support activities.</p>
<b>CDD Results</b>					
1. Job aid prepared for the new ORS	DNS / ATN	0	Job aid prepared with DSR		Result changed from new policy for CDD to job aid to promote new ORS to be done in second semester
<b>Family Planning Results</b>					
1. Training of trainers in FP/IPC	DSR / DNS / ATN	20	20 trained	22 providers trained	One per FP unit that has not previously benefited, hospital providers, and other institutes and health organizations.
2. Dissemination of revised PNP for RH with job aids for Family Planning	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	Training of trainers for regions	22 trainers trained	All regions represented plus the Health Training Institute; job aids being identified
3. A national strategy for communication in RH	DSR / DNS / ATN	0	1 revised strategy	Local and International consultants identified	In preparation; situational analysis underway
4. Gender integration in the RH division's activities	DSR / DNS / ATN	30-50% of training workshop participants are women	50% of participants are women	To date, at least 50% of participants are women	For all workshops except FP/IPC (women's participation is a proxy indicator)
<b>Malaria Results</b>					



Results	Data source	2005	Target (2006)	Achieved (First semester '06)	Comments
1. National policy widely disseminated	PNLP / DNS/ ATN	1 final policy document	1 document is widely disseminated	Pending	Document is awaiting finalization of drug policy
2. Health personnel trained in IPT and service provision	PNLP / DSR/ DNS/ ATN	Gao, Segou	Personnel trained in four regions	2 additional regions (Bamako and Mopti) have completed focused ANC training	Regions already trained is baseline (before ATN intervention) in IPT; however, new focused ANC with emphasis on IPT is being implemented in 2006
3. Information campaign on IPT	ATN / PNL	1 campaign started	1 campaign completed	1 campaign underway in 59 health districts	Television and radio spots are being carried out
4. Evaluation of the integration of IPT into focused ANC	ATN /DSR	0	1 evaluation	Planned for second semester	Focused ANC will be the object of monitoring and supervision
<b>Component 2 Results</b>					
1. Donor mapping updated	ATN / CPS	1 questionnaire for donors updated	1 document available for PRODESS donors	1 document available	Data base also conceived and is available with document. The data base will be adapted for PRODESS II data. To be finalized in the next semester
2. Analysis of bottlenecks	ATN	0	1 document	1 draft available	
3. Analysis of procedures for accessing and using DAF funds	ATN	0	1 Management guide 1 meeting for validation of results	Guide submitted to the DAF	Guide for using financial assistance from USAID/Mali
4. Dissemination of lessons learned from MHO's	ATN	Initiated	1 message guide available	Report being finalized	Best practices report from Senegal PHRplus meeting
5. Message guide for high impact services	ATN/ CNECS	0		In progress	Consultant hired
6. Radio series for high impact services	ATN / DNS	0	14 episodes	Finalized and available for dissemination	Radio dissemination being prepared